

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

1/17/79

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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FM USICA/BUENOS AIRES  
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USICA FOR PGM/RC,AR  
SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF,ARA/ECA,HA  
USCINCSO FOR SJ2C-AD

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS. - PRESS REPORTS TUESDAY SAID 17 PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABDUCTION AND ASSASSINATION OF ELENA HOLMBERG WERE RELEASED AS POLICE CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF THE ARGENTINE CAREER DIPLOMAT. CLARIN AND HERALD EDITORIALS PRAISED THE "STRONG, BRAVE WORDS" FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR AT MISS HOLMBERG'S FUNERAL, WHICH "REVEALED THE DEEP IMPACT THE MURDER HAS MADE IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY, AND THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT IT." BOTH PAPERS DEMANDED FAST ACTION TO STOP THE VIOLENCE. HERALD SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY DEATHS IN INEXPLICABLE AND ODIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES (READ: MURDERS FOR WHICH LEFTWING TERRORISTS CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE) BEFORE THIS -- AND, INEXPLICABLY, SINCE THE ARMED FORCES TOOK POWER TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER. YET THERE IS NOT A SINGLE CASE IN WHICH ANY ONE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE OR, EVEN, NAMED." CLARIN DECLARED THAT THE HOLMBERG CASE MUST BE "INVESTIGATED TO ITS ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES" AND "TERRORISM AND ASSASSINATION... NO MATTER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, ARE CONFRONTING THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE BASED IN THE RULE OF LAW."

HERALD AND CRONICA REPORTED THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA STATING "ITS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF REACTION AND FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE LARGE NO. OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED." THE ASSEMBLY ALSO SENT VIDELA A LIST OF 4,381 "DOCUMENTED CASES OF PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED-- GENERALLY BY ARMED MEN CLAIMING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES." THE STORY ADDED: "THE ASSEMBLY ENCLOSED RECENT NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS REPORTING THE FINDING OF 17 BODIES... ON THE BEACH AT SANTA TERESITA, THREE ALLEGED TERRORISTS KILLED IN A SHOOT-OUT IN ROSARIO, ANOTHER EXTREMIST SHOT IN MAR DEL PLATA, 'DOUBTLESS' DEATHS IN A PSYCHIATRIC ESTABLISHMENT IN THE ONTIVEROS COLONY IN SANTA FE, THE DISCOVERY OF THREE CHARRED BODIES AT LA SALADA, IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, AND THE REPORTED DEATH FROM POISONING OF TWO PRISONERS IN AN UNNAMED POLICE STATION." THE LETTER SAYS THE ASSEMBLY "HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER ANY OF THESE CASES HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS BUT THEY ARE ALL OF SOCIAL CONCERN." ALSO CLAIMS THAT "THE KIDNAPPING OF PEOPLE IS CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH AT A SLOWER RATE." ON THE SAME PAGE, HERALD SAID THE LIFELESS BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN WITH HER HAIR SHAVED WAS FOUND MONDAY IN THE SALADO RIVER IN SANTA FE.

HERALD WEDNESDAY PRINTS A LETTER FROM MRS. ANA ETCHVERRY DE RICCI IN BAHIA BLANCA WHO SAYS SHE IS TRYING TO LOCATE HER SON, AGED 21, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN LA PLATA MAR 30, 1977. SHE STATES "WE CANNOT FIND ANY WITNESSES WILLING TO TESTIFY BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL AFRAID... MY 12 TELEGRAMS TO PRESIDENT VIDELA AND INTERIOR MINISTER MARGUINDEGUY REMAIN UNANSWERED." SHE ALSO SAYS THE COURTS HAVE REJECT-

ED HER 11 HABEAS CORPUS REQUESTS.  
HERALD WEDNESDAY REPRINTED STANLEY HOFFMAN STORY "HUMAN RIGHTS POSITIVE FOR U.S." FROM NEW YORK TIMES.  
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1-17-79

4 381 CASE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

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